

This price bulletin was developed by researchers at IFPRI Malawi with the goal of providing clear and accurate information on the variation of weekly retail prices of selected agricultural commodities that are important for food security and nutrition in Malawi. The reports are intended as a resource for those interested in agricultural markets in Malawi.

Highlights

- Average retail prices of legumes (common bean, soybean, groundnut, and pigeon pea) increased by 1 to 3 percent.
- Average retail prices of cassava and Irish potato increased while sweet potato prices declined marginally.
- Sorghum prices declined by 11 to 33 percent while rice prices either increased or remained constant.

Legumes

Table 1. Retail prices (MWK/kg) of common bean and pigeon pea by region during November 2020

Market	Common bean					Pigeon pea					Change since Oct 31	
	Oct 31	Nov 7	Nov 14	Nov 21	Nov 28	Oct 31	Nov 7	Nov 14	Nov 21	Nov 28	C. bean	P. pea
North												
Karonga-boma	700	700	700	700	700	500	500	500	500	500	→ 0%	→ 0%
Mzuzu	850	850	850	850	850	-	-	-	-	-	→ 0%	-
Jenda	783	800	800	800	800	-	-	-	-	-	↑ 2%	-
Center												
Mchinji	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	-	-	-	-	-	→ 0%	-
Mitundu	950	950	950	950	950	-	-	-	-	-	→ 0%	-
Chimbiya	733	733	733	733	733	-	-	-	-	-	→ 0%	-
South												
Balaka	1100	1100	1100	1100	1100	633	633	650	633	633	→ 0%	↑ 0%
Lunzu	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	488	488	500	500	500	→ 0%	↑ 2%
Mangochi	-	-	-	-	-	500	500	500	500	500	-	→ 0%
Ngabu	-	-	-	-	-	450	450	450	500	500	-	↑ 11%
Bangula	983	983	983	1000	1000	-	-	-	-	-	↑ 2%	-
All markets	900	904	905	911	907	514	514	521	529	529	↑ 1%	↑ 3%

Note: - = commodity was not monitored.

Table 2. Retail prices (MWK/kg) of soybean and groundnut by region during November 2020

Market	Soybean					Groundnut					Change since Oct 31	
	Oct 31	Nov 7	Nov 14	Nov 21	Nov 28	Oct 31	Nov 7	Nov 14	Nov 21	Nov 28	Soybean	Groundnut
North												
Karonga-boma	-	400	400	400	400	1000	100	1000	1000	1000	→ 0%	→ 0%
Mzuzu	400	400	400	450	450	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	↑ 13%	→ 0%
Jenda	400	400	400	400	400	733	1033	1033	1000	1000	→ 0%	↑ 36%
Center												
Mchinji	375	375	375	375	375	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	→ 0%	→ 0%
Mitundu	400	400	400	400	400	925	925	933	933	950	→ 0%	↑ 3%
Chimbiya	400	400	400	400	400	900	900	900	900	900	→ 0%	→ 0%
South												
Balaka	450	450	450	450	450	1200	1200	1200	1167	1167	→ 0%	↓ -3%
Lunzu	450	450	450	450	450	-	-	-	-	-	→ 0%	-
Mangochi	-	450	450	450	450	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	→ 0%	→ 0%
Ngabu	-	-	-	-	-	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	-	→ 0%
Bangula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All markets	411	415	415	419	419	995	1034	1031	1017	1025	↑ 2%	↑ 3%

Note: - commodity was not monitored.

Roots and Tubers

Figure 1. Regional average retail prices (MWK/unit) of cassava, Irish potato, and sweet potato during November 2020

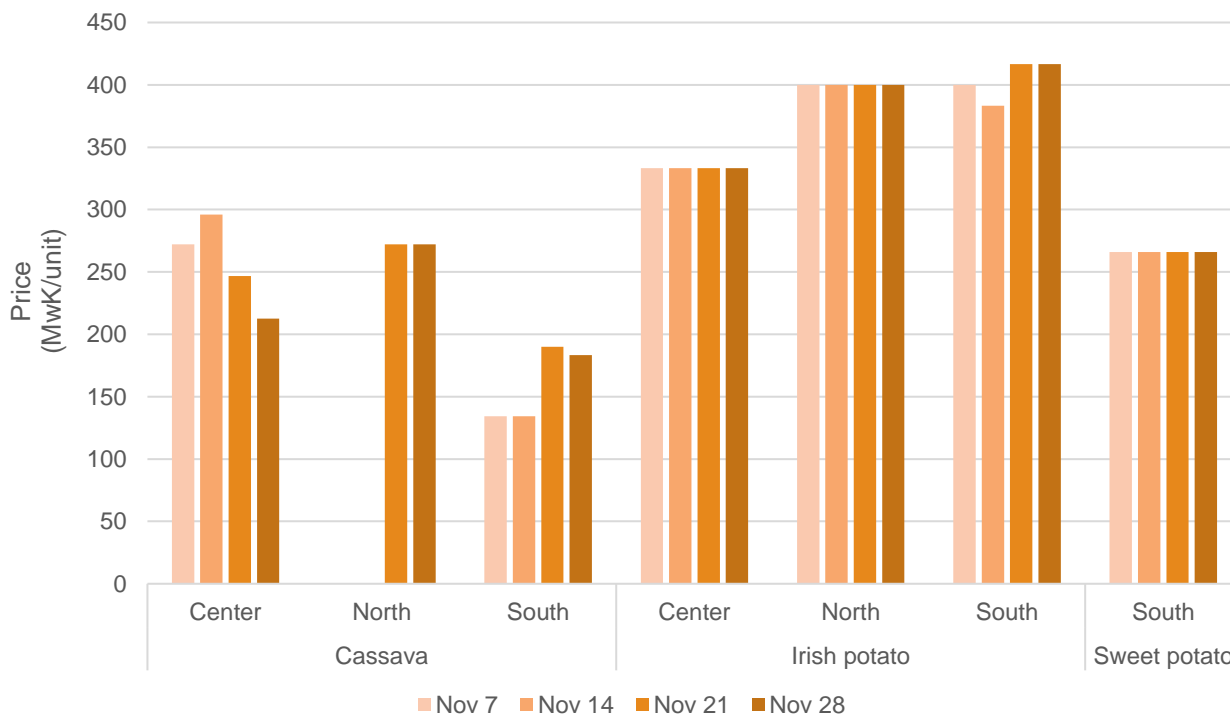


Table 3. Retail prices of roots and tubers (MWK/unit) during November 2020

Commodity	Market	Oct 31	Nov 7	Nov 14	Nov 21	Nov 28	Change since Oct 31
Cassava	Chinkhoma	-	224	272	231	220	↓ -2%
	Kawamba	-	-	-	320	240	↓ -25%
	Limbe	128	128	128	192	200	↑ 56%
	Mitundu	-	320	320	213	187	↓ -42%
	Namwera turn-off	155	154	154	188	166	↑ 7%
	Nkhatabay-boma	-	-	-	272	272	→ 0%
	All markets		142	217	231	229	209
Sweet potato	Bangwe	250	250	250	250	250	→ 0%
	Chilobwe	333	333	333	333	333	↑ 0%
	Chinakanaka	275	238	238	275	238	↓ -14%
	Ndirande	200	250	250	200	250	↑ 25%
	Zingwanga	275	275	275	275	275	→ 0%
	All markets	267	266	266	266	266	↓ -0.23%
	Irish potato	Jenda	400	400	400	400	400
Lizulu-Lilongwe		350	350	350	350	400	↑ 14%
Lizulu		300	300	300	300	433	↑ 44%
Tsangano turn-off		350	350	350	350	300	↓ -14%
Blantyre market		400	400	400	400	350	↓ -13%
Limbe		367	400	367	433	350	↓ -5%
All markets		361	363	361	372	372	↑ 3%

Note: Cassava and Irish potatoes are priced per kilogram; sweet potatoes are priced per heap; - = commodity was not monitored.

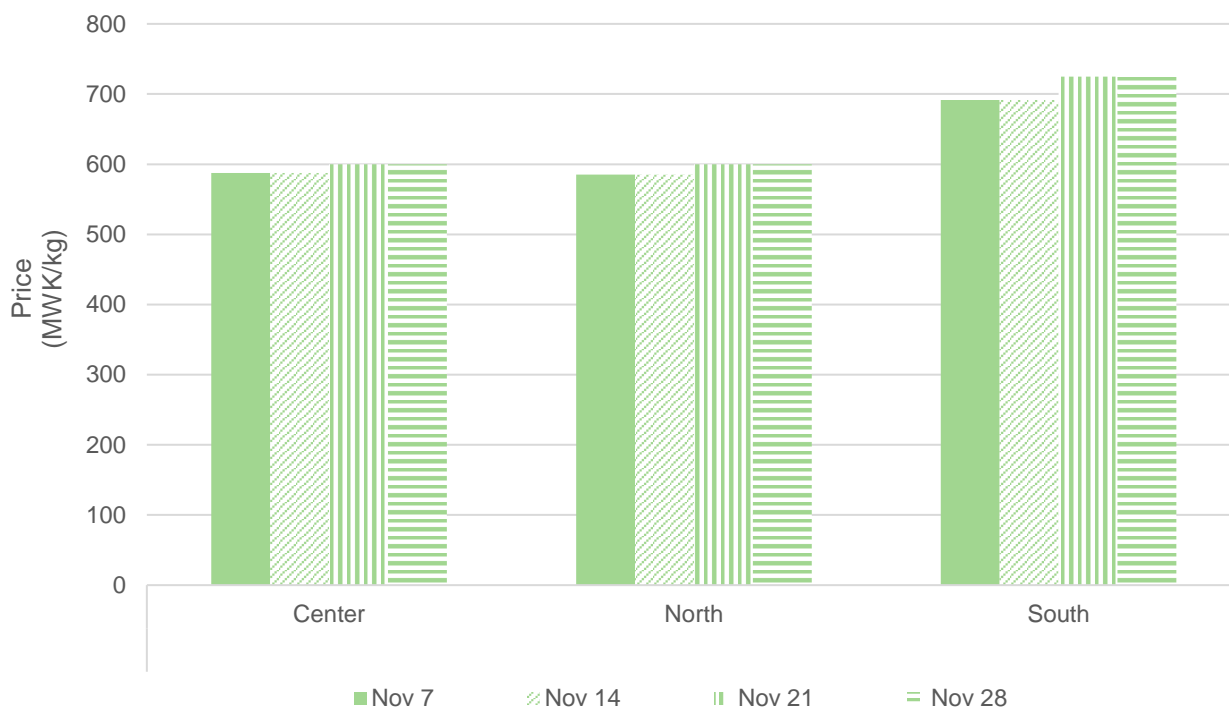
Other Cereals

Table 4. Retail prices of other cereals (MWK/kg) during November 2020

Commodity	Market	Oct 31	Nov 7	Nov 14	Nov 21	Nov 28	Change since Oct 31
Rice	Chiringa	680	700	700	700	700	↑ 3%
	Karonga-boma	500	500	500	500	500	→ 0%
	Mzimba-boma	800	800	800	800	800	→ 0%
	Nkhatabay-boma	550	550	550	600	600	↑ 9%
	Nkhotakota-boma	550	550	550	600	600	↑ 9%
	Phalombe	800	800	800	800	800	→ 0%
	Pusi	600	600	600	600	600	→ 0%
	Salima-kamuzu road	600	600	600	600	600	→ 0%
	Songani	575	575	575	675	675	↑ 17%
	Wowwe	-	500	500	500	500	→ 0%
	All markets	628	618	618	638	638	↑ 2%
Sorghum	Chikwawa	450	450	450	300	300	↓ -33%
	Ngabu	450	500	500	400	400	↓ -11%
	Nsanje	500	500	500	400	400	↓ -20%
	All markets	467	470	470	340	340	↓ -27%

Note: - commodity was not monitored.

Figure 2. Regional average retail prices (MWK/kg) of rice during November 2020



How data were collected

With financial support from the European Union, IFPRI Malawi began monitoring retail prices of selected legumes, roots and tubers, and non-maize cereals* in selected markets in October 2020. Currently, prices are collected from 44 markets across the country, with monitoring occurring once per week. Three monitors report prices from each market. Data is collected by means of automated short message service (SMS) with follow-ups made by telephone the next day if needed. The commodities monitored are being phased-in, starting with legumes, root crops and other cereals, and then expanding to include livestock products and fish by the end of 2020. Note that the number of markets monitored vary by commodity because major markets are targeted in areas where these commodities are widely produced.

* daily retail prices for maize are available from our [monthly maize market reports](#)



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